A TRUE NARRATIVE

Of the Present State of Affairs in SCOTLAND,

Respecting the REBELLION:

Sent in a Letter to a Person of Quality.

SIR,

I Know an Account of our present condition must be acceptable to you, though the Distempers we now lye under may give you grief and trouble. The news of the Commotions that infest this our Countrey (I question not) hath gone far, and people receive the impressions of it according to the different passions that govern them. You have heard the occasion that first contributed to this unhappy Rebellion, and therefore I shall offer nothing as to that, but only give you a short Account of the great care our Magistrates take to put a stop to this formidable evil; which take in a few words.

The Council omits nothing that may contribute to our ſafety; they ſit cloſe, and have iſſued forth their Orders for the ſummoning of the Militia, and all the Heritors of the next adjacent Counties to come in and attend the Kings Hoſt, which is to March againſt the Rebels; and their Orders are ſo readily and cheerfully obeyed, that it is not doubted but they will be Eight or Ten thouſand before *Friday* next, beſides the ſtanding-Forces, which with the Addition that will be made by them, will be more conſiderable. The Militia and Gentry of the remoter Counties from the North are likewiſe on their March to *Sterling*, and may contribute greatly to the advantage of the Kings affairs there.

My Lord Chancellor is gone over to *Fife*, to haſten out the Militia-Regiments, and the Nobility and Gentry of that Shire, all of whom ſeem to be very reſolute and forward for the ſuppreſſing the Rebellion.

The Militia-Regiment of *Edenburgh* have very unanimouſly taken an Oath to be faithful to the King, and to ſerve him with their Lives and Fortunes in this Expedition, againſt thoſe who are the diſturbers of our Peace.

One piece of News more I muſt likewiſe inform you of, which is very conſiderable:

The Privy-Council hearing that there were ſome that roſe in *Tyvindale*, with a reſolution to joyn with the Re-

Rebels in the Weſt, and by that means to make them the more formidable, (which doubtleſs they would have been by the Addition of their Forces) ſent the Maſter of *Roſs* to *Selkerk* with Forty Horſe and an Hundred Dragoons to skirmiſh with, and if they could, to diſſipate them; and he behaved himſelf bravely; for diſcovering Three hundred Horſe and Foot, he Advanced towards them in good Order: The Gallantry of which Action conſternated the Rebels, who thereupon began to run. Upon which, the Maſter Commanded out Twenty of his beſt Horſe to charge them in their Reer; which effected what he deſigned, which was, to make them diſpute the point with him; for it obliged them to Halt and Draw up. Then the Maſter Attacqued them ſo briskly with his whole Party, that he killed Threeſcore upon the place, and took Ten of them Priſoners.

As to the Number of theſe Rebels, we can as yet get no certain Account of them; but this we hear, and take it for a good Omen, That there are great debates and diviſions among them for the Command; and no wonder, for when Government is forſaken, and the Obligations to it denied, if every one that can, aſpires to it; and the only way to decide it, is the Swords-point; for every one may upon the ſame parity of reaſon, claim as much right to have the management of the new Government, as to endeavour the deſtruction of the old. As to their Number, they are variouſly reported, becauſe ſome go to them, and others leave them. And my thoughts are, as they don't encreaſe, ſo they don't decreaſe.

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I pray God (if it be his Will) put a ſtop to this Rebellion; and incline the hearts of the people to be obedient and loyal to His Majeſty and his Government, that there may no more Chriſtian blood be ſpilt.

In a ſhort time (*Sir*) I hope, through the Bleſſing of God, to give a further account of our ſucceſs againſt theſe diſturbers of our Peace.

June 10, 1679.

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